

# SOMETIMES NECESSARY TO KNOCK A MAN DOWN TO GET HIS RESPECT, PRESIDENT SAYS TO PRESS CLUB

Intimate Human Touches Revealed in Chief Executive's Review of Three Years in White House, As Disclosed in Address to Newspaper Correspondents—Duty of U. S. To Keep Out of War in Order to Help Reinstall Peace, President Declares.

Washington, May 17—President Wilson last night made public a frank and intimate review of his three years in the White House and his impressions of foreign and domestic problems, delivered confidentially Monday night before Washington correspondents gathered at the National Press Club. He spoke of the difficulties of the Presidency and particularly of the motives which have guided his handling of the European situation.

"America," the President said, "is for peace because she loves peace and believes the present war has carried the nations engaged so far that they cannot be held to ordinary standards of responsibility." But, he added, the United States has grown to be one of the great nations of the world, and therefore must act "more or less from the point of view of the rest of the world."

"If I cannot retain my moral influence over a man except by occasionally knocking him down," he said, "if that is the only basis on which he will respect me, then, for the sake of his soul, I have got occasionally to knock him down."

The President declared he had been kept awake nights considering the European situation, because there might come a time when the United States would have to do what it did not desire to do, and "the great burden on my spirit has been when that time came." He added that he did not conceive that he had been elected President to do as he pleased. "If I were it would have been very much more interesting," he said.

Impressions of public men as a class were given frankly by the President, with the comment that some grew and some swelled. He also discussed the relations of the newspapers to the affairs of the nation and sounded a warning that false information about foreign affairs was more than likely to lead to trouble.

The President's remarks as originally delivered were made public, but no important portions were eliminated, and the wording was not changed substantially. Following is the text of the speech:

**Text of Wilson's Speech.**

"I am both glad and sorry to be here—glad because I am always happy to be with you, and know and like so many of you, and sorry because I have to make a speech. One of the leading faults of you, gentlemen of the press, is your inordinate desire to hear other men talk, to draw them out on all occasions, whether they wish to be drawn out or not. I remember being in this press club before making many unpremeditated disclosures of myself, and then having you, with your singular instinct for publicity, insist that I should give it away to everybody else.

"I was thinking as I was looking forward to coming here this evening that other occasion when I stood very nearly at the threshold of the duties that I have since been called upon to perform, and I was over in my mind the impressions that I then had by way of forecast of the duties of President and comparing them with the experiences that have followed. I must say that the forecast has been very largely verified, and that the impressions I had then have been deepened rather than weakened.

"You may recall that I said then that I felt constantly a personal detachment from the Presidency; that one thing that I remember when I was not performing the duties of the office was being reminded that I was the President of the United States. I felt toward it as a man feels toward a great function, which, in working hours, he is obliged to perform, but which, out of working hours, he is glad to get away from and almost forget and postpone the quiet course of his own thoughts.

**Could Take the Census.**

"I am constantly reminded as I go about, as I do some times at the week end, of the personal inconvenience of being President of the United States. If I want to know how many people live in a small town all I have to do is to go there and they at once line up to be counted. I might, in a census taking year, save the census takers a great deal of trouble by asking them to accompany me and count the people on the spot. Sometimes, when I am most beset, I seriously think of renting a pair of whiskers or of doing something else that will furnish me with an adequate disguise, because I am sorry to find that the out of my job is unmistakable, and that I must sail under false colors if I am going to sail incognito.

**Remarks Start Fires.**

"Now that is pretty dangerous, gentlemen, because it happens that remarks start fires. There is tinder lying everywhere, not only on the other side of the water, but on this side of the water, and a man that spreads sparks may be responsible for something as great as the burning of a town on the Mexican border.

"Thoughts may be bandits. Thoughts may be raiders. Thoughts may be invaders. Thoughts may be disturbers of international peace, and when you reflect upon the importance of this country keeping out of the present war, you will know what tremendous elements we are all dealing with.

"We are all in the same boat. If somebody does not keep the processes of peace going, if somebody does not keep their passions disengaged, by what impartial judgment and suggestion is the world to be aided to a solution when the whole thing is over? If you are in a conference in which you know nobody is disinterested, how are you going to make a plan? I tell you, gentlemen, the only thing that saves the world is the little handful of disinterested men that are in it.

"Now, I have found a few disinterested men. I wish I had found more. I can name two or three men with whom I have conferred again and again and again, and I have never caught them by an inadvertent thinking about themselves for their own interests, and I tie to those men as you would tie to an anchor. I tie to

That is what is the matter with them; they are not even staying where they were. They are sinking further and further back in what will some time comfortably close over their heads as the black waters of oblivion. I sometimes imagine that I see their heads going down, and I am not inclined even to throw them a life preserver.

"Yet as I have matched my experiences with my anticipations, I, of course, have been aware that I was taken by surprise because of the prominence of many things to which I had not looked forward. When we are dealing with domestic affairs, gentlemen, we are dealing with things that to us as Americans are more or less calculable. There is a singular variety among our citizenship, it is true, a greater variety even than had anticipated, but after all, we are all steeped in the same atmosphere, we are all surrounded by the same environment, we are all more or less affected by the same traditions, and, moreover, we are working out something that has to be worked out among ourselves, and the elements are there to be dealt with at first hand.

"But when the fortunes of your own country are, so to say, subject to the incalculable winds of passion that are blowing through other parts of the world, even the strain of a singular and unprejudiced love, because you do not know by what turn of the wheel of fortune the control of things is going to be taken out of your hand. It makes a difference how deep a passion of the nation lies, that passion may be so overborne by the rush of fortune in circumstances like those which now exist that you feel the sort of—I had almost said resentment that a man feels when his own affairs are not within his own hands. You can imagine the strain upon the feeling of any man who is trying to interpret the spirit of his country when he feels that that spirit cannot have its own way beyond a certain point. And one of the greatest points of strain upon me, if I may be permitted to point it out, was this:

**America for Peace.**

"There are two reasons why the chief wish of America is for peace. One is that they love peace and have nothing to do with the present quarrel; and the other is that they believe the present quarrel has carried those engaged in it so far that they cannot be held to ordinary standards of responsibility, and that, therefore, as some men have expressed it to me, since the rest of the world is mad, why should we not simply refuse to have anything to do with the rest of the world in the ordinary channels of actions? Why not let the storm pass, and then, when it is all over, have the reckoning?

"Knowing that from both these two points of view the passion of America was for peace, I was, nevertheless, aware that America was one of the nations of the world, not only, but one of the chief nations of the world—a nation that grows more and more powerful almost in spite of herself; that grows morally more and more influential even when she is not aware of it, and that if she is to play the part which she most covets it is necessary that she should act from the point of view of the rest of the world. If I cannot retain my moral influence over a man except by occasionally knocking him down, if this is the only basis upon which he will respect me, then for the sake of his soul I have got occasionally to knock him down."

"You know how we have read in 'Isis' that Ralph Connor's stories of Western life in Canada—that all his sky pilots are ready for a fracas at any time, and how the ultimate salvation of the souls of those who run into danger depends upon their using their fists occasionally. If a man will not listen to you quietly in a seat sit on his neck and make him listen, just as I have always maintained, particularly in view of certain experience of mine, that the shortest road to a boy's moral sense is through his cuticle. There is a direct and, if permitted to pun, a fundamental connection between the surface of his skin and his moral consciousness. You arrest his attention first in that way and then get the moral message conveyed to him in milder ways that, if he were grown up, would be the only ways you would use.

**His Task to Choose Time.**

"So I say that I have been aware that in order to do the very thing that we are proud of the ability to do, there might come a time when we would have to do it in a way that we would prefer not to do it; and the great burden on my spirits, gentlemen, has been that it has been up to me to choose when that time came. Can you imagine a thing more calculated to keep a man awake at nights than that? Because, just because I did not feel that I was the whole thing and was aware that my duty was a duty of interpretation, how could I be sure that I had the right elements of information by which to interpret truly?

"What we are now talking about is largely spiritual. You say, 'All the people out my way think so and so.' Now, I know perfectly well that you have not talked with all the people out my way. I find that out again and again. And so you are taken by surprise. The people of the United States are not asking anybody's leave to do their own thinking, and are not asking anybody to tip them off what they ought to think. They are thinking for themselves—every man for himself. And you do not know, and the worst of it is, since the responsibility is mine, I do not know what they are thinking about.

"I have the most imperfect means of finding out, and yet I have got to act as if I knew. That is the burden of it, and I tell you, gentlemen, it is a pretty serious burden, particularly if you look upon the office as I do—that I am not put here to do what I please. If I were, it would have been very much more interesting than it has been. I am put here to interpret, to register, to suggest, and more than that, and much greater than that, to be suggested to.

"Now that is where the experience that I forecast has differed from the experience that I have had. In domestic matters I think I can in most cases come pretty near a guess where the thought of America is going, but in foreign affairs the chief element where action is going on in other quarters of the world and not where

thought is going in the United States. Therefore, I have several times taken the liberty of urging upon you gentlemen not to know more than the State Department knows about foreign affairs. Some of you have shown a singular range of omniscience, and certain things have been reported as understood in Administrative circles which I never heard of until I read the newspapers. I am constantly taken by surprise in regard to decisions which are said to be my own, and this gives me an uncomfortable feeling, their instinctive revulsion at work with which I have had no communication at all.

"The sooner they disappear the better. We need their places for people who are awake, and we particularly need now, gentlemen, men who will divest themselves of party passion and personal preference, and will try to think in the terms of America. If a man describes himself to me now in any other terms than those terms I am not sure of him; and I love the fellows that come into my office sometimes and say: 'Mr. President, I am an American.' Their hearts are right, their instincts are true, and going in the right direction and will take the right leadership if they believe that the leader is also a man who thinks first of America.

"You will see, gentlemen, that I did not premeditate these remarks or they would have had some connection with each other. They would have had some plan. I have merely given myself the pleasure of telling you what I really feel in my heart, and not only has been in my heart, but is in my heart every day of the week. If I did not go off at week ends occasionally and throw off, as much as it is possible to throw off, this burden, I could not stand it.

"This week I went down the Potomac and up the James and substituted history for politics, and there was an infinite, sweet calm in some of those old places that reminded me of the records that were made in the days that are past. And I comforted myself with the recollection that the men we remember are the disinterested men who gave up the dearest that have covered the names of America all over the lustre of imperishable glory."

## SHEEP AND DOGS

A government bulletin takes up the raising of more sheep. The principal obstacle is not anything essential to the life of the sheep. Our country is ideally adapted for them. The old proverb says, "The sheep's hoof is shod with gold." Wool and mutton sell for high prices and sheep can live on land that otherwise would lie idle.

The dog problem is the one great difficulty. As population increases, the number of dogs also is augmented. The country districts are full of roaming and blood-thirsty mongrels. Once they get the taste of fresh meat, no farm animal of their size is immune from attack.

The farmer would place high license fees on the keeping of dogs to get an ample fund to pay damages with. He would also enact stringent laws about confinement of dogs. But the dog is a creature of the heart, and will not assent to any restrictive measures tending against their health and contentment.

Yet the failure to raise the number of sheep and to produce is a failure properly to develop our resources. It increases the cost of wool and mutton—two of the most useful substances raised by man. The community wants its dogs and it must expect to pay for them.

The law should compensate the farmer liberally for damage done to his flock. The compensating authorities should consider not merely the actual damage done to these killed or bitten, but the general lowered tone of a flock due to nervous fright. Dog owners should be well assessed for such losses. Then perhaps they would realize the necessity of disposing of dogs having this unfortunate tendency to prey on a valuable domestic animal.

It costs high for paint and labor for Paint-Up Week, and it costs higher to let buildings run down.

There is a feeling out on the road that a fellow who gets out and runs his machine only 20 miles an hour, is an obstructor of the highway.

## DANGEROUS DUST

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## OUR NEWTOWN NEWS LETTER

(Special to the Farmer.)

Newtown, May 17—Two of the newly appointed policemen of Bridgeport John R. Quinn and John P. Halpin, are Newtown boys and both attended the Sandy Hook public school in their youth. Former schoolmates here are glad of their initial success.

Mrs. M. Lillis, Mrs. Thomas F. Canaugh, and T. F. Digney, attended the funeral, yesterday, in Bridgeport, of John Lennon.

Rev. Phillip Coholan, curate of St. Rose's church, was in Bridgeport, Tuesday, where he acted as master of ceremonies at the solemn requiem mass in St. Peter's church for the repose of the soul of Mary F. Ryan.

Frank Buckley and Miss Victoria Beaudry of Bridgeport, were guests of Miss Helen Buckley at the convent of Mercy, this week.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rupp, this week, are Rev. and Mrs. Charles Finley and Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Plumb, and daughter of Bridgeport.

A horse driven by Mrs. A. S. Meeker was run into by an automobile on the state road, Sunday afternoon. The harness was broken, and the animal was injured on the side and shoulders, but did not run away. Two children were in the vehicle at the time, but none was hurt. The driver of the car who lives in Bridgeport, gave his name and number of his car, promising to pay all damages. He had lost control of his car, he said, but witnesses criticized his experience and knowledge. No arrest was made.

The May meeting of the Women's Missionary society of the Congregational church, will be held at 3 p. m. Thursday, at the home of Mrs. G. A. Carlson, West street. A full attendance is desired as an interesting program has been arranged.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hassett and son of Bridgeport, have been recent guests of Mrs. Hassett's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kilbride of Cemetery avenue.

Miss Anna Donohue of Yonkers and



**MONEY** must rest in the bank to draw its rest. VELVET never could have its age-mellowed smoothness if it didn't rest "in the wood" two years.

*Velvet Joe.*

Miss Anna Ekan of New York, were recent guests of Mrs. Thomas McGowan of Bridgeport.

The Misses Yawman of Jersey City have opened Pleasant View cottage for the summer.

William Whitlock has taken a position as clerk at the store of Corbett & Crowe.

Dr. and Mrs. Harry Nichols of New Haven, spent last week at the Nichols homestead on Mount Pleasant.

Miss Elizabeth Blake of Castle Ronald, has returned from a trip to New York.

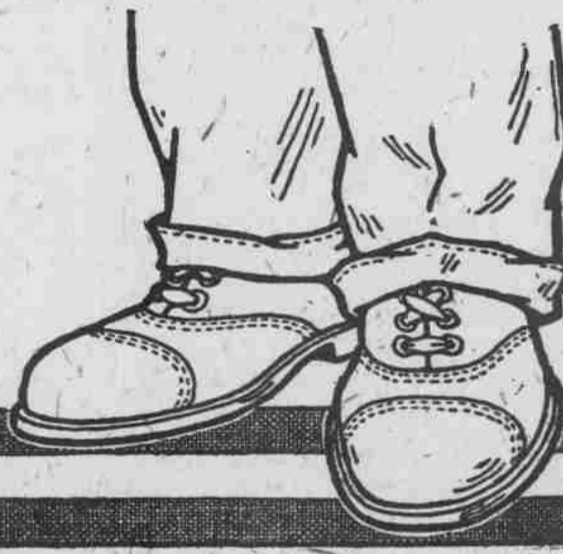
The question of a Sunday mail is being agitated by the members of the summer colony and workers in factories in town. A mail bag or closed pouch could come on the 9:12 a. m. paper train from Bridgeport, and it could be arranged so that box renters, at least, could get their mail in the post office lobby before service in the churches began, the advocates say. Newtown had this accommodation for many years.

P. J. Lynch of Bridgeport, was in town today.

**OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED TOMORROW BY GREEK UNION**

Election of officers of the Greek Catholic union at the convention here probably will be held tomorrow. The session this morning and early this afternoon was taken up with reading reports.

Supreme Legal Adviser Joseph Meyers addressed the meeting today. President Michael Rushin addressed the meeting yesterday. The convention was opened by the chairman, Nicholas Bachtu.



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JOHN FEDOR, 1045 East Main Street  
H. SHINE, 1275 Stratford Avenue.

DAVID GREENBAUM, 121 Congress Street  
L. LANDESMAN, 1780 Stratford Avenue  
CHARLES MELLITZ, 272 Spruce Street  
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